

Cedar Chemical West Helena, Phillips County, Arkansas Fact Sheet

Background: The Cedar Chemical site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing facility located in Phillips County, Arkansas south of West Helena, Arkansas. The facility was initially operated by Helena Chemical in 1970. The facility was purchased by Eagle River Chemical and operated for approximately 18 months. From 1971 to 2002 the facility manufactured or processed a variety of agricultural and organic chemicals under various owners and operators. The last owner of record was Cedar Chemical Corporation. On March 8, 2002, Cedar Chemical Corporation filed for bankruptcy. Manufacturing and plant operations were shut down shortly thereafter. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) assumed control of the facility on October 12, 2002, and currently acts as the caretaker of the facility. Environmental issues associated with the facility include abandoned chemicals, buried drums, ground water contamination, surface and subsurface soil contamination and an abandoned storm water treatment system.

In January 2003, the EPA Region 6 conducted a Superfund removal action and removed chemicals left in tanks and containers. On March 22, 2007, ADEQ, pursuant to the authority of the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act (RATFA), issued a Consent Administrative Order (CAO) LIS 07-027 to Tyco Safety Products-Ansul Incorporated, formerly known as Wormald US, Inc. (Ansul), Helena Chemical Company (Helena Chemical), and ExxonMobil Chemical Co., a division of ExxonMobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) regarding Cedar Chemical. The CAO directed that environmental concerns be addressed at the facility. Currently, the facility is leased to Quapaw Products LLC which is revitalizing two of the chemical production units.

Current Status:

Enforcement is currently reviewing CERCLA 104(e) responses from companies that were involved in toll manufacturing activities at the Site. To date Enforcement has received 5 responses for review: ExxonMobil, Dupont, Rohm and Haas, BFGoodrich, and Oregon-California Chemicals.

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Site Team:

Attorney: Marvin Benton
RPM: Philip Allen
Enforcement Officer: Lance Nixon



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